**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing system, comprising:

a first computing device configured to:

receive state information through a first port; and

selectively initiate execution of a software application ~~by one of:~~ by:

the first computing device ~~if~~ when a state of at least one of the first computing device and a second computing device is a first state; and

the second computing device through a second port ~~if~~ when the state is a second state, the software application being associable with one or more software objects.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1 wherein the software application is a socket-based application.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the state is a synchronized state of at least the first and second computing devices.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the state includes information for identifying a group of software applications executed by the first and second computing devices.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the state indicates whether the software application has an associated listening socket.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1 wherein the software application is a first software application, and wherein the first computing device is configured to, in response to execution of the first software application and the state, selectively initiate execution of a second software application by the second computing device.

7. (Currently Amended) An information processing system, comprising:

a first computing device configured to:

execute a software application that is associated with at least one software object; and

in response to receiving a request for initiating execution of the software object associated with the executing software application, independent of the software application, selectively initiate execution of the software object ~~by one of:~~ by:

the first computing device ~~if~~ when a state of at least one of the first computing device and a second computing device is a first state; and

the second computing device ~~if~~ when the state is a second state.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 7 wherein the software application is a socket-based application.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 7 wherein the state is a synchronized state of at least the first and second computing devices.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 7 wherein the first computing device is configured to coordinate a communication of information between the software application and the software object, even ~~if~~ when the software object is executed by the second computing device.

11. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a first computing device of an information processing system, the method comprising:

receiving state information through a first port; and

selectively initiating execution of a software application by ~~one of~~:

the first computing device ~~if~~ when a state of at least one of the first computing device and a second computing device is a first state; and

the second computing device through a second port ~~if~~ when the state is a second state, the software application being associable with one or more software objects.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11 wherein the software application is a socket-based application.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the state is a synchronized state of at least the first and second computing devices.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the state includes information for identifying a group of software applications executed by the first and second computing devices.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the state indicates whether the software application has an associated listening socket.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11 wherein the software application is a first software application, and further comprising:

in response to execution of the first software application and the state, selectively initiating execution of a second software application by the second computing device.

17. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a first computing device of an information processing system, comprising:

executing a software application that is associated with at least one software object; and

in response to receiving a request for initiating execution of the software object associated with the executing software application, independent of the software application, selectively initiating execution of the software object ~~by one of:~~ by:

the first computing device ~~if~~ when a state of at least one of the first computing device and a second computing device is a first state; and

the second computing device ~~if~~ when the state is a second state.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17 wherein the software application is a socket-based application.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 17 wherein the state is a synchronized state of at least the first and second computing devices.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, comprising:

coordinating a communication of information between the software application and the software object, even when the software object is executed by the second computing device.

21.-35. (Canceled)

36. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the first computing device is configured to selectively initiate execution of the software application by the second computing device by transmitting a data packet to the second computing device through the second port.

37. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the first computing device and the second computing device are servers in a server farm.

38. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the state is maintained in a state table.

39. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the first computing device comprises an intelligent network interface card.

40. (New) The system of claim 7 wherein the first computing device is configured to selectively initiate execution of the software object by the second computing device by transmitting a data packet to the second computing device.

41. (New) The system of claim 7 wherein the first computing device and the second computing device are servers in a server farm.

42. (New) The system of claim 7 wherein the state is maintained in a state table.

43. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein selectively initiating execution of the software application by the second computing device comprises transmitting a data packet to the second computing device through the second port.

44. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the first computing device and the second computing device are servers in a server farm.

45. (New) The method of claim 11 further comprising maintaining a state table based on the received state information.

46. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the first computing device and the second computing device are servers in a server farm.

47. (New) The method of claim 17 further comprising maintaining a state table and determining the state based upon the state table.

48. (New) An information processing system, comprising:

a first computing device comprising:

means for receiving state information through a first port; and

means for selectively initiating execution of a software application by:

the first computing device when a state of at least one of the first computing device and a second computing device is a first state; and

the second computing device through a second port when the state is a second state, the software application being associable with one or more software objects.

49. (New) The information processing system of claim 48 wherein the first computing device and the second computing device are servers in a server farm.

50. (New) An information processing system, comprising:

a first computing device comprising:

means for executing a software application that is associated with at least one software object; and

means for responding to a received request for initiating execution of the software object associated with the executing software application, independent of the software application, by selectively initiating execution of the software object by:

the first computing device when a state of at least one of the first computing device and a second computing device is a first state; and

the second computing device when the state is a second state.